

Symphoricarpos occidentalis Shrubland

COMMON NAME Western Snowberry Shrubland
SYNONYM Western Snowberry Shrubland
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Shrubland (III)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous shrubland (III.B)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (III.B.2.N)
FORMATION Temporarily flooded cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.N.d)
ALLIANCE SYMPHORICARPOS OCCIDENTALIS TEMPORARILY
FLOODED SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE
CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3
USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM PALUSTRINE

RANGE

Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge

Western snowberry shrublands are rare within the Refuge. Only a few small stands (less than 0.5 ha in size) were recorded in the northernmost portion of the Refuge.

Globally

This western snowberry shrubland is found in the western tallgrass and northern Great Plains of the United States and Canada.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge

Western snowberry is generally found on sites that receive some form of supplemental moisture. Consequently, they are usually associated with small depressions in the uplands.

Globally

This community is found in mesic swales, depressions, ravines and floodplains. Some examples of this community experience intermittent and brief flooding. The soils are fertile and well-drained to imperfectly drained silts and loams. The upper soil horizon is usually deep, although a thin layer of sand may be present if the site has been recently flooded (Jones and Walford 1995).

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
SHORT SHRUB	<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
SHORT SHRUB	<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
SHORT SHRUB	<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
SHORT SHRUB	<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge

At the Refuge, the stands are often intermixed with, a wide variety of vegetation types such as western wheatgrass and other upland grasses.

Globally

Throughout its range this community is dominated by shrubs approximately 1 m tall. Shrub cover is typically greater than 50%, and in places it can approach 100%. These shrubs form dense clumps that exclude most other species. *Symphoricarpos occidentalis* is the most common shrub, but *Rhus aromatica* (or *Rhus trilobata*) and *Prunus virginiana* can be locally abundant and can grow to 2-3 m in places. *Toxicodendron rydbergii* may also be present. Herbaceous species and smaller shrubs are most abundant at the edges of this community and in gaps between the clumps of taller shrubs where the shading is less complete. *Rosa woodsii* is a typical smaller shrub. Common graminoids include *Pascopyrum smithii* and *Poa pratensis*. *Achillea millefolium*, *Artemisia ludoviciana*, *Galium boreale*, and *Solidago* spp. are common forbs of this community. Woody vines sometimes occur, including *Parthenocissus vitacea*.

This shrubland type occurs throughout its range as thickets surrounded by grasslands or occasionally by tall shrublands (e.g., *Prunus virginiana*).

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G4G5. This type is common throughout the northern Great Plains. Historically, it may never have been very extensive. It has been observed to grow out from forest or woodland edges and shade out the grasses. It is tolerant of both grazing and fire (Hansen and Hoffman 1988), and is under no threat from human activities. In some cases, heavily grazed pastures may favor this types. Many examples are somewhat weedy; thus the type is not demonstrably secure.

DATABASE CODE CEGL001131

COMMENTS

Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge

(n/a)

Globally

(n/a)

REFERENCES

- Christy, S. 1973. An analysis of the woody vegetation on the South Platte River flood plain in northeastern Colorado. Unpublished thesis. University of Northern Colorado, Greeley. 82 pp.
- Clark, S. J. V. 1977b. The vegetation of Rocky Flats, Colorado. Unpublished thesis. University of Colorado, Boulder.
- Clark, S. V., P. J. Webber, V. Komarkova, and W. A. Weber. 1980. Map of mixed prairie

- grassland vegetation-Rocky Flats, Colorado. University of Colorado, Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research Occasional Paper 35. 66 pp.
- Hansen, P. L., and G. R. Hoffman. 1988. The vegetation of the Grand River/Cedar River, Sioux, and Ashland districts of the Custer National Forest: A habitat type classification. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station. General Technical Report RM-157. Fort Collins, CO. 68 pp.
- Hansen, P. L., G. R. Hoffman, and A. J. Bjugstad. 1984. The vegetation of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota: A habitat type classification. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station. General Technical Report RM-113. Fort Collins, CO. 35 pp.
- Hansen, P. L., G. R. Hoffman, and A. J. Bjugstad. 1984. The vegetation of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota: A habitat type classification. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station. General Technical Report RM-113. Fort Collins, CO. 35 pp.
- Hansen, P. L., R. D. Pfister, K. Boggs, B. J. Cook, J. Joy, and D. K. Hinckley. 1995. Classification and management of Montana's riparian and wetland sites. Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station, School of Forestry, University of Montana, Miscellaneous Publication No. 54. 646 pp.
- Hansen, P., K. Boggs, and R. Pfister. 1991. Classification and management of riparian and wetland sites in Montana. Unpublished draft version prepared for Montana Riparian Association, Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station, School of Forestry, University of Montana, Missoula. 478 pp.
- Johnston, B. C. 1987. Plant associations of Region Two: Potential plant communities of Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, and Kansas. R2-ECOL-87-2. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. Lakewood, CO. 429 pp.
- Jones, G. 1992. Wyoming plant community classification (Draft). Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY. 183 pp.
- Jones, G. P., and G. M. Walford. 1995. Major riparian vegetation types of eastern Wyoming. Submitted to Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY. 245 pp.
- Kittel, G., E. Van Wie, M. Damm, R. Rondeau, S. Kettler, and J. Sanderson. 1999. A classification of the riparian plant associations of the Rio Grande and Closed Basin watersheds, Colorado. Unpublished report prepared by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Colorado State University, Fort Collins.
- Kittel, G., R. Rondeau, N. Lederer, and D. Randolph. 1994. A classification of the riparian vegetation of the White and Colorado River basins, Colorado. Final report submitted to Colorado Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Boulder. 166 pp.
- McAdams, A. G., D. A. Stutzman, and D. Faber-Langendoen. 1998. Black Hills Community Inventory, unpublished data. The Nature Conservancy, Midwest Regional Office, Minneapolis, MN.
- Meyer, M. I. 1985. Classification of native vegetation at the Woodworth Station, North Dakota. *Prairie Naturalist* 17(3):167-175.
- Steinauer, G., and S. Rolfsmeier. 2000. Terrestrial natural communities of Nebraska (January 2000 version). Unpublished report of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Lincoln, NE. 143 pp.